

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 L-03

AID-20 IGA-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 DODE-00

RSR-01 /107 W

----- 045250

R 281722 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3511

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 REYKJAVIK 0342

FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS EAID IC

SUBJECT: VOLCANO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

REF: A) STATE 054090; B) REYKJAVIK 275;

C) REYKJAVIK 304; D) REYKJAVIK 333

1. ALTHOUGH REFTEL (A) WHICH WAS RECEIVED MARCH 24 OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS OF PRVIOUS TWO DAYS, THIS EMBASSY APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY REFTEL (A) TO REVIEW SITUATION.

&2. REFTEL (A) PARA 2, SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT WASH HAS SOME V OUBT AS TO WHETHER THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ICELAND WAS AN OFFICIAL REQUEST, STATING ALSO THAT " THI REQUEST EXACT ORIGIN OF WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN COMMUNICATED TO WASH." EMB IN ITS MESSAGES WOULD NOT HAVE USED WORDS " OFFICIALLY ASKED EMB" IF REQUEST HAD NOT COME FROM MFA SINCE EMB HAS CONSI TNTLY TAKEN STAND THAT ALL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE REGARDING WESTMANN ISLAND

DISASTER MUST ORIGINATE WITH MFA. THIS OPERATIONAL POLICY WAS COMMUNICATED TO DEPTSEVERAL WEEKS AGO IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE VOLCANIC DISASTER BY TELEGRAM AND SEVERAL TIMES SINCE BY TELEPHONE. ALSO EMBASSY ASSUMED THAT DEPT WOULD HAVE DISCERNED REQUEST WAS FROM MFA SINCE REF (C) OF MARCH 19 REFERS
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TO ACTIVE ROLE OF MFA SEC GEN PETUR THORSTEINSSON. ORIGINATOR
OF REFTEL
SHOULD ALSO TAKE
NOTE THAT THE TRUST FIND AGREEMENT
AND SUPPLEMENT ON THIS SUBJCT WAS SIGNED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
FONMIN BY OR THE OECD, ON SUBJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN
CHOSEN BY COMMON AGREEMENT AND WHICH WILL CERTAINLY
BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATION. INVOLVED ARE
QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS (INCLUDING SELF- LIMITATIONS
OF EXPORTS), CUSTOMS EVALUATION, LICENSING SYSTEMS,
STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL REGULATIONS, MARKING AND
PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS, EXPORT SUBSIDIES AND OTHER
AIDS HAVING AN EFFECT ON TRADE AND COMPENSATORY
TAXES AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT.

27. IN THIS FIELD, RECIPROCITY IS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT
TO MEASURE THAN IS THE CASE FOR CUSTOMS TARIFFS. THIS
IS WHY IT APPEARS THAT ONLY A SUFFICIENTLY LARGE
GROUP OF SOLUTIONS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE AT THE
APPROPRIATE MOMENT TO WORK OUT A SUBSTANTIAL " PACKAGE"
AND ONE WHICH IS-- INsofar AS IT IS POSSIBLE-- BALANCED.

28. MOST OF THE MEASURES ARE APPLIED BY A LARGE
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND THUS LEND THEMSELVES TO
MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS INVOLVING THE SUPPRESSION
OR MODIFICATION OF THE MEASURES IN QUESTION OR A
GREATER DISCIPLINE OR HARMONY AT THE INTERNATIONAL
LEVEL. THESE SOLUTIONS COULD INVOLVE
DIFFERENT TYPES OF DECISIONS AND RESTRAINTS AND COULD,
DEPENDING ON THE CASE, TAKE THE FORM OF INTERPRETATIVE
NOTES TO THE PRESENT PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL
AGREEMENT, OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES OR OF CODES OF
CONDUCT. IN DEVELOPING THESE SOLUTIONS, IT WILL
BE WORTHWHILE TO SEEK THE MAXIMUM DEGREE OF BALANCE
OF COMMITMENT WITHIN THE GIVEN SUBJECT MATTER
WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT CERTAIN FIELDS ARE INHERENTLY
UNBALANCED.

29. FOR CERTAIN MEASURES-- WHICH INVOLVE ONE OR TWO
COUNTRIES-- THE SOLUTION CAN BE PINPOINTED (SUPPRESSION
OR ADAPTION) WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF ENVISAGING
GENERAL RULES FOR THIS PURPOSE.

30. THE COMMUNITY SHOULD IDENTIFY THE MEASURES THAT
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IT WISHES TO SEE FIGURE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE APPROPRIATE TO ADD TO THE LIST OF SUBJECTS (MENTIONED ABOVE) A LIMITED NUMBER OF OTHER MEASURES. (FOOTNOTE: THE GROUP FOR TRADE QUESTIONS HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE PREPARATION OF THIS DOSSIER.) FOR THEIR PART, THE COMMUNITY AND THE MEMBER STATES MUST INDICATE THEIR READINESS TO NEGOTIATE, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A MULTILATERAL OR SPECIFIC SOLUTION, CERTAIN MEASURES THAT THEY APPLY. GIVEN THE FACT THAT BY THE VERY NATURE OF THE SUBJECT, WE ARE DEALING HERE ESSENTIALLY WITH MEMBER STATE MEASURES, IT IS INDISPENSIBLE THAT, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE LATTER PUT TOGETHER A SUFFIEICIENT BODY OF NEGOTIABLE QUESTIONS SO AS TO PERMIT ADQUATE RECIPROCITY WITH REGARD TO THE DEMANDS ON THE COMMUNITY.

31. THE SOLUTIONS THAT WILL BE WORKED OUT WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED BY AS LARGE A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE; OTHERWISE THERE WILL BE A RISK OF INCREASING THE DISEQUILIBRIUM WHICH ACTUALLY EXISTS AMONG THE DIFFERNET CONTRACTING PARTIES. FOR THIS REASON IT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE CLEAR THAT ADVANTAGES FLOWING FROM SOLUTIONS THAT INVOLVE OBLIGATIONS GOING BEYOND THE PRESENT RULES OF GATT CAN BE LIMITED TO COUNTRIES WHICH, IN FACT, ACCEPT THESE SOLUTIONS (CONDITIONAL APPLICATION OF THE MFN RULE).

32. IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF BALANCE, THE CONTRACTING PARTIES WHICH STILL BENEFIT FROM THE EXCEPTIONS OF THE PROTOCOL OF PROVISIONAL APPLICATION MUST RENOUNCE IT.

33. IN THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS PARTICULAR ACCOUNT MUST BE TAKEN OF THE SITUATION AND INTERESTS OF LESS- DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THE LATTER SHOULD BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THEIR POSSIBILITIES, FOR EXAMPLE, IN SIMPLIFYING-- IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS-- THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM APPLICABLE TO IMPORTS (CUSTOMS EVALUATION, CONSULAR FORMALITIES).

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34. THE SOLUTION THAT IS FOUND FOR TARIFF (SIC) MEASURES SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN APPROPRIATE MECHANISM OF CONSULTATION AND REGUALTION OF DISPUTES--

IN ORDER TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION WITH
REGARD TO THE NEW COMMITMENTS AND IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH
DIFFICULTIES THAT MIGHT ARISE WITH REGARD TO MEASURES
WHICH WILL NOT HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH OR WHICH WILL
ONLY BECOME CLEAR AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.
END TEXT OF PART I. GREENWALD

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 L-03

AID-20 IGA-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 DODE-00

RSR-01 /107 W
----- 045763

R 281722 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3512

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 REYKJAVIK 0342

FROM AMBASSADOR

5. DEPARTMENT RIGHTLY SO POINTS OUT THAT LOCATING AND
HANDLING EQUIPMENT AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS WAS DONE IS A FORM OF
AID. WE USED THIS ARGUMENT FROM THE TIME WE STARTED TO RECEIVE
HINTS THAT ICELAND REALLY WANTED EVERYTHING FREE. UNFORTUNATLY,
ONLY THOSE HANDFUL OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE EVER BEEN INVOLVED IN
SUCH AN OPERATION CAN APPRECIATE HOW TREMENDOUS AND COMMENDABLE
A TASK THIS IS.

6 AT NO TIME HAS THIS EMBASSY REQUESTED ANY ASSISTANCE FROM
WASH FOR REASONS OF PHILANTHROPY. IN FACT WHENEVER A REASON
FOR A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WAS GIVEN, IT WAS BECAUSE IT
ENHANCED THE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVE OF STALLING A DECISION
ON THE PART OF GOI WHICH WOULD BE ADVERSE TO THE IDF ISSUE AND
TO BUILD UP FAVORABLE PUBLIC OPINION IN EVENT IDF BECOMES A
REFERENDUM ISSUE. ALL GOI POLITICIANS AGREE, SOME HAPPILY,
SOME UNHAPPILY, THAT THE AID RENDERED SO FAR BY THE IDF AND THE
USG THROUGH THE IDF HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT FA TOR IN DELAYING
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE IDF RETENTION ISSUE. THE MAGIC
DATE BEFORE WHICH THE UNFRIENDLY ELEMENTS IN GOI ARE COMMITTED

TO FORCD ACTION ON THE IDF ISSUE IS DEC 1, 1973., WHICH IS
EIGHTEEN MONTHS BEFORE THE ELECTORAL TERMINATION OF THE PRESENT
GOVT. WHATEVER STALLING TACTICS CAN BE EMPLOYED BETWEEN NOW
AND THE DEC 1 DATE SERVE USG PURPOSES. ONE OF THE THINGS THE
USG SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT BEFORE
IT FALLS THE PRESENT COALITION GOVT M.
HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973REYKJA00342
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730343/aaaaimyt.tel
Line Count: 234
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 054090, 73 REYKJAVIK 275, 73 REYKJAVIK 304, 73 REYKJAVIK 333
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980113
Subject: VOLCANO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: EAID, MASS, IC
To: EUR
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005